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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA

Rural Water Supply
(Supplementary Assistance) (GAM/74/007)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	February 1979
Starting date of project activities:	November 1975 (Including preparatory assistance)
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Department of Hydrometeorological Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$566 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) and Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries (SMF/LDC)

I. Background

1. The Gambia's development and the improvement of living conditions in the rural areas depend largely on progress in the agricultural sector and the development of water resources in particular. The Government therefore wishes to improve the living conditions of the rural population and in turn promote agricultural development and the socio-economic development of the rural sector through the development of the country's water resources. By 1982 a viable rural water supply system should be supplying the rural areas country-wide with water in adequate quantities and of good quality for human consumption, livestock and agriculture.

2. Following the drought conditions in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of West Africa, which had accumulated since 1969 and reached catastrophic proportions after the failure of rains in 1972 and 1973, several United Nations missions were sent to the Gambia to assess the problem of rural water supply in the country. They found that both quantitatively and qualitatively existing wells were not sufficient to meet the rural population's needs. The Gambia Government formulated plans to deal more effectively with the problem, including

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by the Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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a proposal for the present project for which UNDP assistance was initially approved in 1975 and further assistance approved in 1976. 1/

3. The objectives of this first part of the project which was to carry out a pilot programme of limited scope confined to specific area for the purpose of introducing modern techniques and infrastructure which, if successful, could be expanded to other areas of the country, have now been achieved.

4. The Supplementary Assistance now approved will cover reorientation of the pilot programme in 1979 and beyond, and the project duration will be extended by three years. It will supply the Gambia with funds, equipment supplies, and technical assistance to embark on a nation-wide well digging programme covering planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of the rural water supply systems that cater to the consumption needs of the rural population. The project has been submitted by the Government for co-financing by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

II. Objectives and activities

5. The immediate objective of the project is to strengthen the Department of Hydrometeorological Services by providing technical assistance, training and equipment to its Rural Water Supply Division with a view to enhancing the Department's capability to efficaciously discharge its responsibilities in respect of the co-ordination, preparation and implementation of policies and programmes concerning the planning, design, maintenance and construction of all non-commerical water supply in rural areas. Following the creation of the Rural Water Supply Division in January 1979, the project will establish and train a second well-digging brigade in addition to supervising and guiding the brigade that was established during the first part of the project.

III. Inputs

6. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, for the services of a project manager (senior water engineer), a well construction specialist and a United Nations volunteer mechanic. In addition, provision has been made for consultancy assistance in specialized technical aspects and for training of the national staff. UNDP will also finance a small amount of equipment, tools, spare parts etc.

7. The Government will provide all salaries, local costs and indemnities for the national staff of the project and will ensure the availability of lands and the financial means to finance the construction of office space and warehouses for the second well-digging brigade.

1/ DP/PROJECTS/1860.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved $	Present approval $	Total approved $
Personnel	234 173	365 500	599 673
Training	12 260	100 000	112 260
Equipment	70 838	76 000	146 838
Miscellaneous	55 322	24 500	79 822
	372 593 2/	566 000 3/	939 593

9. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $1,220,000 in kind.

2/ The Indicative Planning Figure.
3/ The Special Measures Fund/Least Developed Countries.